

**MEDULLOBLASTOMA**—Benjamin L. Crue, Jr., Lt. Cmdr., MC, USN, Neurosurgical Service U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, California. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 1958. 206 pages, \$5.75.

Although at first glance one might be of the impression that a monograph dealing with a single neoplasm of the relative rarity of medulloblastoma would be of interest only to the neurologist and neurosurgeon, this book presents this condition against a background of neoplasia in general in an interesting and informative manner. It can thus be read with profit by all physicians. In addition, it forms an authoritative source for detailed knowledge of the brain tumor which gives it its title.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.

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**PRACTICAL DERMATOLOGY**—Second Edition—George M. Lewis, M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Clinical Medicine (Dermatology), Cornell University Medical College; Attending Dermatologist, The New York Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1959. 363 pages, \$8.00.

The second edition of "Practical Dermatology" by George Lewis has been increased to 350 pages. It deals thoroughly with the common dermatoses and emphasizes, as in the first edition, differential diagnoses.

Dr. Lewis is an experienced teacher, and a lucid writer, and he has sensed the need of those who are interested in dermatology but who are not specialists in it. This is a highly useful book for the general doctor and is recommended reading for the medical students. Of extreme practical value to the practicing doctor is a dermatologic formulary. In 17 pages, Lewis has listed and described almost all of the drugs useful in the treatment of the common skin lesions.

This book is to be recommended for its clarity, its accuracy and its usefulness as a quick source of reference.

EUGENE M. FARBER, M.D.

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**GENERAL UROLOGY**—Second Edition—Donald R. Smith, M.D., Clinical Professor of Urology and Chairman of the Department of Urology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; Consulting Urologist, San Francisco Hospital, Consulting Surgeon (Urology), Veterans Hospital, San Francisco; Chief of the Department of Urology, St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, 1959. 328 pages, \$4.50.

This excellent small textbook of basic urology by the chairman of the department of urology of the University of California Medical School is the revised second edition of a volume which first appeared only two years ago. This early revision, together with the announcement of a Spanish edition as well, is a good recommendation for the quality of the book.

It is not intended to be an exhaustive treatise on urology, but is designed primarily for the student and general practitioner. It is, however, somewhat more complete than some similar texts in the same field produced in the last few years, and it contains much useful material. The presentation is unusually good, the writing is concise and accurate, and the book is well outlined and easy to read. The new edition contains some changes, mostly concerning newer developments, but the over-all size is unchanged.

The volume appears again in the same form as in the first edition. It is lithographed, rather than printed, and the type is small, though clear and reasonably easy to read. The paper is somewhat less than usual book quality, which detracts a little from the quality of reproduction of the illustrations. However, these are improved in this edition, are well selected and entirely adequate. The binding of heavy

paper gives the book a rather semi-permanent form, suitable especially for the student or the occasional reader. This is presumably an effort to reduce the expense of production, a worthy ambition in these days of ever-increasing costs.

For the student or the physician looking for a clear condensed exposition of the fundamental principles and problems of urology, this will be an excellent guide. Indeed it is somewhat more than this, for it contains numerous important points valuable in the diagnosis and treatment of genitourinary disorders. It also includes a brief discussion of practically the whole field, including some conditions usually known only to the specialist. An interesting final chapter is on psychosomatic urologic syndromes. Any doctor can easily afford the book and it is highly recommended.

LYLE G. CRAIG, M.D.

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**LESIONS OF THE LOWER BOWEL**—Raymond J. Jackman, M.D., M.S. in Proctology, Section of Proctology, Mayo Clinic, and Associate Professor of Proctology, Mayo Foundation, Graduate School University of Minnesota, Rochester, Minnesota. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois. 347 pages, \$15.00.

This new volume presents a fresh approach to the task of diagnosis of lesions of the lower bowel. It is an exceptionally complete and well integrated correlation of diagnostic and clinical features, employing color photographs and concise text. The wealth of material available to the author makes for completeness and long experience in teaching graduate students in the field of proctology makes for conciseness. The author not only presents the subject matter from an objective standpoint but frequently introduces his personal viewpoints and experience into the discussion. Emphasis throughout is upon diagnosis. Treatment is merely touched upon. A color atlas in the center of the book provides 75 endoscopic views of common and rare lesions ranging from chronic ulcerative colitis in its various stages to inverted diverticulum and pneumatosis cystoides intestinalis. Abundant drawings depict various techniques, intramural and extrinsic lesions.

This is primarily a picture book, but several chapters of the text deserve special mention. The sections on intramural tumors and extrinsic invasions of the lower bowel are good. The differential diagnosis of retrorectal, rectovesical, extrarectal masses and lesions of the cul-de-sac is well done. A chapter is devoted to unusual presacral or retrorectal tumors with an analysis of the type and differential diagnosis. The use of the Silverman needle for transrectal biopsy of intramural and extrinsic lesions is discussed with indications and precautions. This is a valuable and simple diagnostic aid where properly used and deserves added recognition. A short chapter about granulomas of the rectum groups the granulomata together regardless of etiology for purposes of differential diagnosis. An interesting discussion devoted to the nonsurgical management of anal incontinence will be of value to the surgeon. A timely discussion of the physiology of the large bowel by Dr. J. R. Hill summarizes the literature on this neglected subject.

The book, excellent as it is, could be improved if more pictures and text were devoted to malformations of the rectum with associated fistulas and other aspects of pediatric proctology. Chapter headings should be carried at the top of each page for easier reference.

This volume is outstanding because of its fresh approach, abundant endoscopic color photographs and completeness. The type throughout is very legible. Text and captions are clear, concise and informative. It is authoritative and will provide ready reference and stimulating knowledge to every physician concerned with diagnosis of lesions of the lower bowel.

M. D. REDDING, M.D.